

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-23, and 47-49 are pending in this application. Claims 24, 26-31, 33-38, and 40-46 are canceled by the present response without prejudice.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16, 18-23, and 47-49 were noted as allowable with a properly filed Terminal Disclaimer in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16, 18-21, and 47-49 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. patent 6,810,148. Claims 24, 31, and 38 were objected to for informalities. Claims 24, 26-31, 33-38, and 40-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,970,504 to Abe et al. (herein "Abe").

The present response is submitted to place the above-identified application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action.

First, by the present response a Terminal Disclaimer is submitted over U.S. patent 6,810,148 to address the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16, 18-21, and 47-49 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16, 18-21, and 47-49 are believed to be allowable, as also noted in paragraph 3 of the Office Action.

Rejected claims 24, 26-31, 33-38, and 40-46 are also canceled by the present response without prejudice. Thus, the rejection of those claims is now moot.

Thus, by the present response only allowable claims are pending in this application. Thereby, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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